

over the next eight years. The center added a Mobile Outreach Program to take food, clothing, offers of shelter and words of hope to women on the street. In 1988, the center's Belmont Avenue shelter expanded to provide transitional housing for 30 single homeless women, and four years later, the center established a transitional residence serving nine mothers and 20 children in an old Craftsman house.

In 1998, fulfilling Sister Julia Mary's dream, the center opened the first phase of the "Women's Village." The Hawkes Transitional Residence provides transitional and affordable housing for homeless women and their children as well as facilities to train the women for jobs. Two years later, in 2000, the second phase of the "Women's Village" was completed with the Angel Guardian Home. It provides 12 apartments that offer long-term housing in a supportive community setting for homeless mothers with disabilities and their children. In June 2008, the final piece of the Women's Village was completed, with the opening of the Sister Julia Mary Farley Women's Village. This facility provides transitional housing in one-bedroom apartments for 21 employed homeless women. It also includes an employment and client services center that serves all Good Shepherd Center residents, and The Village Kitchen—a bakery and cafe in which residents receive job training and experience in the culinary arts.

With the completion of the Women's Village, Sister Julia Mary and Good Shepherd Center now serve more than 1,100 homeless women and children annually, and house 150 women and children each night.

I have had the privilege of visiting with Sister Julia Mary and the residents of Good Shepherd Center, and I must say the determination of the women to make better lives for themselves and their children is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Sister Julia Mary Farley's founding of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children, I ask my colleagues to please join me in commending Sister Julia Mary for her vision and tireless efforts to provide daily inspiration to the center's residents, friends, generous donors, skilled staff, and caring volunteers, and in thanking her for a lifetime of dedicated service to homeless women and their children.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL JANE HELTON, UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jane Helton, United States Army, who is retiring after thirty-five years of dedicated service to our nation. Colonel Helton currently serves as the Chief of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office for the Joint Staff of the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. She is the principal advisor to the Chief and senior National Guard leaders for all sexual assault prevention matters.

Colonel Helton enlisted in the Army in August, 1974. After departing active duty she

served as a Noncommissioned Officer with the 143d Evacuation Hospital in the California National Guard. In 1980 she graduated from Officer's Candidate School and was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer. She served as a Health Services officer in the 175th Medical Brigade and commanded the 980th MEDSOM and the 308th Medical Company. Colonel Helton was activated and served in Kuwait during Desert Storm in the 3d Medical Command as a medical logistics officer and as the Director of Medical Redeployment. After returning to the United States she returned to active duty and served as an Operations Officer and Special Events Officer in the Army G3's Office of Military Support to Civilian Authorities. She helped coordinate and provide medical support during several natural disasters, including New York City immediately after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001. Colonel Helton served as the Chief of the Wounded Warrior Program for the 27th Infantry Brigade at Fort Drum, NY where she helped develop the model wounded warrior program for the entire Army. She also served as the Chief of Command Policy and Programs in the Army G1, responsible for Army policies which included Women in Combat, Suicide Prevention, Religious Accommodation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other high profile Army policies.

Colonel Helton's military education includes the AMEDD Officer basic and advanced courses, Medical Logistics Management Course, Contracting Officers Course, Movement Officers Course, Mobilization Officer Planners Course, Military Support to Civil Authorities Course, Command and General Staff College, Army Management Staff College, Risk Communication Course, Georgetown University Congressional Liaison Course, and Advanced Crisis Incident Stress Management Course. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the California Coast University and a Master of Science degree in Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Jane Helton. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for her tireless service and support of the warfighter. She has been a compassionate leader and professional staff officer whose expertise and sacrifice showcase her patriotism and selfless commitment to our great nation. She is a woman of honor and principle. I would like to thank Colonel Helton for her years of dedicated service, and I wish her, her husband Ray, their children and grandchildren the best wishes for continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join the millions of Americans who will participate in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Since the earliest days of our republic, our nation's leaders have seen fit to formally ac-

knowledge the value and power of our people's prayers by designating specific times where we encourage prayer for the future of our country. President Truman declared the first National Day of Prayer in 1952, and in 1988 President Reagan signed a law declaring that the first Thursday in May would be an annual National Day of Prayer.

I can think of no greater calling than for people of all ages, races, and religious creeds to join together and raise their prayers and petitions to the Almighty.

To that end, the YMCA of Middle of Tennessee and the Operation Andrew Group are organizing National Day of Prayer events all across Middle Tennessee. These events will encourage citizens to pray for the future of our communities and our nation, to pray for those placed in positions of societal leadership, and to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy.

At the Maryland Farms YMCA, in the City of Brentwood, individuals will gather to lift up prayers and participate in this wonderful occasion.

I invite all Members of Congress to please join me in praying for the City of Brentwood, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America during the National Day of Prayer.

#### HONORING LT. MATTHEW JOHN GORDON

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania who has retired after more than 20 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon started his law enforcement career with the Parkesburg Police Department and has faithfully served the City of Coatesville Police Department since 1989.

Lieutenant Gordon earned the respect of fellow officers and elected officials with his outstanding work ethic and exemplary police work throughout his distinguished career.

In addition to protecting the citizens of Coatesville, he also served as Commander of the Chester County Emergency Response Team since its inception in 2002.

Colleagues and friends will celebrate Lieutenant Gordon's career accomplishments and wish him well in retirement on May 8, 2009 during a dinner at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL NURSING WEEK

**HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, in honor and in celebration of National Nursing

Week, I'd like to recognize the achievements of Francis Payne Bolton and the impact of the Bolton Act on the field of nursing.

Madam Speaker, the Bolton Act of 1943, introduced by Congresswoman Frances Payne Bolton, created the Cadet Nurse Corps. The Corps provided Federal funds to nearly 125,000 nurses during World War II to facilitate their training and greatly increase the wartime supply of nurses and care for American citizens on both the home and war fronts. It also significantly improved post-World War II nursing education, replacing the apprenticeship-type training approach in nursing schools with an academic approach and encouraging nurses to study related areas of public health, pediatrics, psychiatric care, and convalescent care. It further benefitted the nursing field by prompting attention and Federal financial aid to graduate nursing degrees, and contributed to the integration of African-Americans into the nursing field.

Madam Speaker, Francis Payne Bolton was the first woman in Ohio elected to the House of Representatives. She served fourteen consecutive terms and later served as trustee of Lakeside Hospital (Cleveland, OH), Lake Erie College (Painesville, OH), and the Central School of Practical Nursing (Cleveland). Trustees at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, named their School of Nursing in her honor. She died in Lyndhurst, OH, on March 9, 1977.

Madam Speaker, last year, I introduced legislation with the late-Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Bolton Act. Frances Payne Bolton single-handedly made sure we had enough nurses at home and overseas during World War II, and helped elevate nursing as an important and critical profession. I am honored to recognize her and her contributions during National Nursing Week, and I yield back.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I told the District of Columbia National Guard 547th Transportation Company, who deployed to Iraq last Saturday, that I would introduce two D.C. National Guard bills this week in their honor. Therefore, today I first introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act, NGRCA, a bill to permanently authorize funding for a program to provide grants for secondary education tuition to the members of the D.C. National Guard. I also introduce the District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act to give the mayor of the District of Columbia authority to call the D.C. National Guard for assistance with natural disasters and non-security civil disturbances. NGRCA authorizes an education incentive program, recommended by former Major General David Wherley and his successor, Major General Errol Schwartz, who suggested that education grants would be useful in stemming the troublesome loss of members of the D.C. Guard to units, in part, because sur-

rounding states offer such educational benefits. I am grateful that the Appropriations Committee has allocated appropriation funds in some years, with smaller contribution from the District, in the Defense Authorization bill. An authorization is necessary to assure that the D.C. National Guard members receive equal treatment and benefits to other National Guard members on a regular basis, especially with surrounding states that do, in fact, have the higher education benefits we seek for D.C. National Guard members. The Guard for the Nation's Capital is severely under-competing for members from the pool of regional residents, who find membership in the Maryland and Virginia Guards more beneficial. A competitive tuition assistance program for the D.C. National Guard will provide significant incentive and leverage to help counteract declining enrollment and level the field of competition.

The D.C. National Guard, a federal instrument that is not under the control of the mayor of the District of Columbia (but see District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act), is losing personnel to other Guards, partly because it is not able to offer the same level of benefits that adjacent National Guards provide. The federal government supports most other D.C. National Guard functions and should support this small benefit as well.

The small education incentives in my bill would not only encourage high quality recruits, but would have the important benefit of helping the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence, including Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and visitors, if an attack on the Nation's Capital should occur. I am pleased to introduce this bill on the advice of Guard personnel who know best what is necessary.

A strong D.C. National Guard able to attract the best soldiers is especially important given the unique mission of the D.C. National Guard to protect the federal presence in addition to D.C. residents. This responsibility distinguishes the D.C. National Guard from any other National Guard. The D.C. National Guard is specially and specifically trained to meet its unique mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### HONORING ALL SAINTS ACADEMY 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of young ladies from Breese, Illinois.

The All Saints Academy 8th grade girls volleyball team dominated this year's Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association's Class M state tournament, sweeping through the field to earn the state title. Competing against some of the top teams in Southern Illinois, the ASA team won all three matches in straight sets, knocking off Goreville in the quarterfinals and Pinckneyville in the semifinals, then defeating St. Peter/Paul for the title. The trophy-clinching win was a thrilling 25-22 squeaker.

I want to congratulate Coaches Tricia Winter and Don Bedard on this year's success. I especially want to congratulate the members of

the state championship volleyball team from All Saints Academy: Jade Beckmann, Rachel Boeckmann, Chelsea Crocker, Julie Deiters, Holland Hempen, Haley Johnson, Bailey Kampwerth, Merideth Kloeckner, Abby Luebbbers, Maddie Mensing, Shannon Mensing, Jessica Peters, Gabrielle Schnieder, Kari Wiegmann and Megan Zurliene. They have achieved great things for their school and their community, and I want to wish them all the best in the future, both on the court and in the classroom.

#### FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as today is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, I rise to introduce a resolution highlighting the importance of identifying and nurturing the factors that contribute to the healthy development of African American youth, and their ability to achieve equal levels of physical and mental development enjoyed by their peers.

Throughout my life and tenure in Congress, I have always advocated protecting the rights of minorities. I stand before you today to promote the strength, health and well-being of African American youth, who are faced with many adversities.

African American youth are disproportionately exposed to many risk factors such as poverty, neighborhood violence, and a wide range of health conditions. These risk factors coupled with continued cultural oppression limit resilience in African American youth. Resilience is a dynamic, multidimensional practice involving the interaction between individuals and their environments within the context of family, peers, school, community, and society, across space and time.

It is our responsibility to acknowledge and understand the legacy of cultural oppression and racial discrimination that African American youth encounter in their daily lives. In doing so, we must also research how these components relate to resilience and various types of behavioral and emotional development.

Madam Speaker, this resolution is not only meant to seek support in this matter but also to generate awareness and collaboration toward resilience research among federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, such as the American Psychological Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and Mental Health America which have endorsed this resolution.

It is vital that we provide the necessary tools to chart a path to success for African American youth.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking a stand against the cultural oppression and racial discrimination that many African American youth encounter by supporting this resolution.